

In the Claims:

1. (original) A method of operating an endoscopic device comprising the steps of:
holding a handle of the device between the palm and at least one finger of the hand other than the index finger and thumb;
holding a portion of a flexible shaft extending from the handle between the thumb and another finger of the same hand holding the handle;
advancing the flexible shaft using at least the thumb of the same hand holding the handle;
and
operating an actuator associated with the handle with the same hand holding the handle without using the thumb of that hand to operate the actuator.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of operating the actuator provides cutting tissue.
3. (original) The method of Claim 1 whercin the step of operating the actuator provides grasping of tissue.
4. (original) The method of Claim 1 whercin the step of operating the actuator comprises squeezing the actuator and handle between the palm of the hand holding the handle and at least one finger other than the thumb and index finger of the hand holding the handle.
5. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of holding the flexible shaft comprises holding the flexible shaft between the thumb and index finger of the same hand holding the handle.
6. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of advancing the flexible shaft comprises advancing the flexible shaft with the thumb and index finger of the same hand holding the handle.

7. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of advancing the flexible shaft comprises advancing the flexible shaft through a working channel of an endoscope.

8. (original) A method of using a medical device comprising the steps of:

providing an endoscopic device comprising a flexible member, a handle associated with the proximal end of the flexible member, and an end effector associated with the distal end of the flexible member;

holding the handle with a single hand without using the index finger and thumb of that hand;

holding a portion of the flexible member between the thumb and another finger of the same hand holding the handle;

advancing the flexible shaft using the index finger and thumb of the same hand holding the handle; and

operating an actuator associated with the handle with the same hand holding the handle without using the thumb or index finger of that hand to operate the actuator.

9. (currently amended) A method of using a medical device comprising the steps of:

providing an endoscope having at least one channel;

providing an endoscopic accessory comprising a flexible member, a handle associated with proximal end of the flexible member and an end effector associated with a distal end of the flexible member;

steering the distal end of the endoscope with one hand;

holding the handle of the endoscopic accessory in the other hand;

advancing the endoscopic accessory through a channel of the endoscope with the hand holding the handle while holding the handle, wherein the step of advancing the endoscopic accessory comprises gripping the flexible member with the hand holding the handle while holding the handle; and

actuating the end effector of the endoscopic accessory with the hand holding the handle while holding the handle.

10. (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of actuating the end effector does not employ using a thumb.

11. (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of advancing the endoscopic accessory comprises using a thumb to advance the endoscopic accessory.

12. (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of advancing the endoscopic accessory comprises using a thumb and index finger to advance the endoscopic accessory.

13. (original) The method of Claim 9 wherein the step of holding the handle comprises positioning the thumb away from the portion of the handle associated with the proximal end of the flexible member.

14. (cancelled).

15. (original) The method of Claim 9 comprising forming a loop of the flexible member between the hand holding the handle and the handle.